

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 05746 01 OF 02 252246Z

63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 0820

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TANNANARIVE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, EAID, EGEN, ETRD, MED, ACP

SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS' COUNCIL MEETING, JUNE 24-25:

HIGHLIGHTS

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PAGE 02 EC BRU 05746 01 OF 02 252246Z

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF A MARATHON MEETING OF THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS IN LUXEMBOURG ON JUNE 24 AND THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF JUNE 25. THE DISCUSSIONS COVERED A BROAD RANGE OF SUBJECTS. AID TO PORTUGAL, THE GREEK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, THE DECLARATION ON CSCE AND THE EC-CYPRUS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING ARE REPORTED IN SEPTELS. END SUMMARY.

2. UN LINER CODE OF CONDUCT: THE COUNCIL HELD A BRIEF EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE COMMISSION'S JUNE 15 PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE UN LINER CODE (SEE EC BRUSSELS 5555). FRANCE, GERMANY AND BELGIUM SAID THEY WERE UNWILLING TO ACCEDE TO THE COMMISSION'S REQUEST TO DELAY SIGNING THE CODE DESPITE THE COMMISSION'S OPINION THAT THE PROPOSED CODE RUNS COUNTER TO THE TREATY OF ROME AND THE IMPLIED THREAT TO TAKE ANY MEMBER STATE WHICH SIGNS THE CODE TO THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE. THE ENTIRE MATTER HAS BEEN RETURNED TO THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER) WITH THE HOPE THAT A COMPROMISE CAN BE FOUND TO AVOID A COURT SHOWDOWN.

3. EC/SRI LANKA: THE MINISTERS RESOLVED REMAINING DIFFICULTIES CONCERNING THE PROPOSED COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EC AND SRI LANKA. DESPITE FIRST GERMAN AND FRENCH AND SUBSEQUENTLY DANISH OBJECTIONS, ALL REFERENCES TO DOVERAGE OF "SERVICES" IN THE AGREEMENT WERE DROPPED. THE EC COMMISSION WILL NOW PROCEED WITH FINAL POLISHING OF THE TEXT PRIOR TO SIGNATURE WHICH IS EXPECTED BEFORE THE AUGUST RECESS.

4. EC/CANADA: THE COUNCIL HELD A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EC AND CANADA (EC BRUSSELS 5221) AND PRONOUNCED THAT IT IS "GENERALLY IN FAVOR" OF THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS. THE COUNCIL ASKED COREPER TO EXAMINE THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS "IN A POSITIVE SPIRIT" IN ORDER THAT NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE OPENED WITH LITTLE LIKELY DELAY. DURING THE DISCUSSIONS, FRANCE REPORTEDLY EMPHASIZED A CONTINUING NEED FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS BUT DID NOT SPECIFICALLY OBJECT TO EC-WIDE AGREEMENTS, PROVIDED THEY DID NOT SUPPLANT BILATERAL PACTS.

5. WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AND EC FOOD AID: THE MINISTERS HELD A BRIEF EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON COMMUNITY COORDINATION FOR THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 EC BRU 05746 01 OF 02 252246Z

WORLD FOOD COUNCIL WHICH BEGAN IN ROME JUNE 23. DUE PRIMARILY TO GERMAN AND ITALIAN OBJECTIONS, NO COMMON POSITION WAS AGREED UPON, ALTHOUGH IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT MEMBER STATES WILL COORDINATE THEIR EFFORTS IN ROME. COMMISSION EFFORTS TO SECURE COUNCIL APPROVAL FOR INCREASED COMMUNITY CEREALS FOOD AID (UP FROM 643,500 TONS IN 1974/75 TO 1 MILLION FOR 1975/76) ARE STILL PENDING AS SEVERAL MEMBER STATES HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH THE PROPOSAL.

6. PREPARATION FOR THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: THE COUNCIL HELD A BRIEF EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON RAW MATERIALS POLICY AND ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. IT REFERRED THE SUBJECT TO COREPER FOR FURTHER STUDY (SEE EC BRUSSELS 4585 AND 5310). PERMANENT DELEGATION SOURCES INDICATE THAT, ALTHOUGH SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF RAW MATERIALS WAS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE AT THIS COUNCIL, BY THE TIME THE ITEM WAS REACHED, IT WAS THREE A.M. AND MOST DELEGATIONS HAD THINNED OUT CONSIDERABLY. THUS THE QUESTION WILL NEXT BE TAKEN UP AT MINISTERIAL-LEVEL WHEN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET ON JULY 15 IN PREPARATION FOR THE JULY 16/17 EUROPEAN COUNCIL.

7. EUROPEAN COUNCIL: THE FOREIGN MINISTERS TENTATIVELY AGREED UPON THE AGENDA FOR THE FORTHCOMING EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING IN BRUSSELS JULY 16-17. (THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ARE EXPECTED TO GIVE FORMAL APPROVAL TO THE AGENDA AS THEIR FIRST ACT OF BUSINESS AT THE MEETING.) SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED INCLUDE: RAW MATERIALS; ENERGY (INCLUDING A DISCUSSION OF THE PRODUCER-CONSUMER DIALOGUE); THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE COMMUNITY; AND MONETARY AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS, AN ITEM WHICH WAS PLACED ON THE PROPOSED AGENDA AT FRENCH REQUEST. IN ADDITION, THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ARE EXPECTED TO HOLD AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION ON THE FUTURE OF THE COMMUNITY IN THE WAKE OF THE UK REFERENDUM. WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF POLITICAL COOPERATION THE SUBJECTS OF CSCE AND PORTUGAL ARE EXPECTED TO COME UP FOR DISCUSSION.

8. EC/MEDITERRANEAN POLICY: UPON LEARNING OF THE AGREEMENT REACHED BY THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS (SEPTEL), THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AUTHORIZED THE COMMISSION TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES. THE COUNCIL ALSO AGREED THAT WORK SHOULD PROCEED ON THE NEGOTIATING DIRECTIVES FOR THE MASHRAQ LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 EC BRU 05746 01 OF 02 252246Z

COUNTRIES (EGYPT, JORDAN, SYRIA AND LEBANON). THE COUNCIL NOTED THE COMMISSION'S ESTIMATE THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN AND MALTA COULD BE RESUMED SHORTLY ON THE BASIS OF RECENT COMMISSION PROPOSALS. FINALLY THE COMMISSION CONFIRMED THAT THE AGREEMENT REACHED BY THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS MEANT THAT THE AGRICULTURAL CONCESSIONS CONTAINED IN THE EC/ISRAEL AGREEMENT COULD ENTER INTO FORCE AT THE SAME TIME AS THE REST OF THE AGREEMENT.

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 05746 02 OF 02 252252Z

63

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INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9141

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 0821

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY OTTOWA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TANNANARIVE

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 EC BRUSSELS 05746

9. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOME CONVENTION: THE COUNCIL
ADOPTED REGULATIONS DESIGNED TO BRING INTO FORCE, ON JULY 1,
1975, THE INTERIM EC/ACP TRADE ARRANGEMENTS AGREED TO DURING
THE NEGOTIATIONS. THESE REGULATIONS, WHICH MERELY PROVIDE
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 05746 02 OF 02 252252Z

FOR ADVANCE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EC/ACP TRADE REGIME, WILL

APPLY PENDING RATIFICATION AND ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE CONVENTION OF LOME. THE MINISTERS APPROVED THE NECESSARY MODIFICATIONS OF INTERNAL COMMUNITY REGULATIONS AND AGREED TO EASE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON RUM ORIGINATING IN ACP COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, THEY POSTPONED TAKING A DECISION ON SIMILAR LIBERALIZATION MEASURES FOR RUM FROM THE FRENCH OVERSEAS TERRITORIES (I.E. MARTINIQUE).

10. ACP BEEF: THE FOREIGN MINISTERS HEARD AN "IMPASSIONED" PLEA FROM UK FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN REGARDING THE PLIGHT OF ACP BEEF PRODUCERS, PARTICULARLY BOTSWANA. AS A RESULT, THEY AGREED TO A PLAN WHEREBY EC IMPORT LEVIES ON BEEF AND VEAL FROM BOTSWANA, KENYA, SWAZILAND AND MADAGASCAR WILL BE REDUCED TO ABOUT 10PERCENT OF THEIR PRESENT LEVEL PROVIDED AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE REMAINDER OF THE LEVY IS COLLECTED BY THE EXPORTING COUNTRIES AS AN EXPORT TAX. THIS ACTION WAS TAKEN BY MAJORITY VOTE. FRANCE OPPOSED BUT WAS OVERRULED.

11. UK REFERENDUM: THE COUNCIL NOTED "WITH SATISFACTION" THE RESULTS OF THE UK REFERENDUM, AND UK FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN THANKED HIS COLLEAGUES FOR THEIR HELP IN DEALING WITH THE RENEGOTIATION ISSUES. IN HIS COMMENTS ON FUTURE EC ACTIVITIES, CALLAGHAN STRESSED THE NEED FOR GREATER COOPERATION IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL FORA, PARTICULARLY WHERE DC/LDC RELATIONS AND RAW MATERIALS ARE INVOLVED. CALLAGHAN CONFIRMED THAT LABOR PARTY REPRESENTATIVES WOULD SOON BE TAKING UP THEIR SEATS IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND SAID THAT WHILE THE ACTUAL DECISIONS HAD NOT YET BEEN TAKEN, HE HOPED AND BELIEVED THAT BRITISH TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES WOULD SOON TAKE UP THEIR PLACES IN THE EC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE. NOTING THAT DIRECT ELECTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT "POSED DIFFICULTIES", CALLAGHAN SAID HE "COULD NOT PROMISE" THAT HMG WOULD HAVE FINISHED THEIR EXAMINATION OF THE PROPOSALS FOR DIRECT ELECTION BEFORE AUTUMN. CALLAGHAN CONCLUDED HIS STATEMENT BY SAYING THAT THE UK WOULD DO ITS BEST TO "STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY AND TO USE IT AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR GOOD FOR MEMBER STATES AND THE WORLD." (COPY OF THE ENTIRE STATEMENT WILL BE POUCHED TO EUR/NE WORRELL AND EMBASSY LONDON.)

12. MISCELLANEOUS: IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD REMINDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 EC BRU 05746 02 OF 02 252252Z

HIS COLLEAGUES OF THE COMMITMENT THEY HAD MADE AT THE 1974 PARIS SUMMIT TO LOOK INTO THE QUESTION OF A EUROPEAN PASSPORT. AS A RESULT, THE COMMISSION IS TO SUBMIT INITIAL REPORTS ON THE PROPOSAL "WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS." DURING THE COURSE OF THE COUNCIL, FITZGERALD ALSO MADE A UNILATERAL DEMARCHE CONCERNING THE MAXIMUM RATE OF REIMBURSEMENT FOR PROJECTS PAID FOR FROM THE EC REGIONAL FUND. DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL, JUMPING THE GUN ON THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 26, REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED DISMAY AT INDICATIONS THAT THE GERMANS DID NOT INTEND TO APPROVE INCREASED EC REAEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES. FINALLY, THE GERMANS SAID THEY WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND, ON A WORLDWIDE BASIS, TRADE CONCESSIONS IN THE LOME CONVENTION ON A SMALL NUMBER OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS. THIS SUGGESTION REPORTEDLY WAS OPPOSED BY OTHER MEMBER STATES WHO SAID THAT IT WOULD BE NEITHER WISE NOR FARI TO ERODE THE PREFERENCES GRANTED TO THE ACP STATES UNDER THE LOME CONVENTION.

13. END OF THE IRISH PRESIDENCY: AT 5:30 A.M., JUNE 25, LONG AFTER MOST MINISTERS AND OBSERVERS HAD DEPARTED, IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER GARRETT FIRZGERALD, LOOKING PINK AND RESTED -- AS ONE STALWART NOTED: "HE DOESN'T EVEN SEEM TO GET HIS SHIRTS WRINKLED"--ENTERED THE PRESS ROOM AND GAVE DAZZLING DISPLAY OF THE ATTENTION TO DETAIL, MEMORY, AND GOOD HUMOR WHICH HAVE BEEN THE HALL MRKS OF HIS COUNCIL PRESIDENCY. FITZGERALD SPOKE TO REPORTERS FOR TWENTY MINUTES GIVING THEM A CONCISE, BALANCED RUN DOWN ON ALL NINETEEN HOURS OF THE COUNCIL'S DELIBERATIONS, REFERRING TO HIS NOTES ONLY TWICE. AFTER ANSWERING QUESTIONS, FITZGERALD ROSE, REMARKED THAT IT LOOKED LIKE A NICE DAY, AND APOLIGIZED FOR LEAVING SO QUICKLY, SAYING HE HAD TO GO THE AIRPORT TO CATCH A PLANE LEAVING AT 7 A.M. FOR ATHENS. ONE SENIOR COMMISSION OFFICIAL, WHO HAS BEEN OBSERVING THE COUNCIL FOR MORE THAN FIFTEEN YEARS, REMARKED THAT HE HAD NEVER SEEN SUCH A BRILLIANT CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COUNCIL AND THAT FITZGERALD'S LEADERSHIP WOULD BE SORELY MISSED.GREENWALD

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